

Allen Dulles, CIA Chief During Eisenhower Years, Dies at 75

CPYRGHT

BY DON OBERDORFER

WASHINGTON—Allen W. Dulles, the most creative, powerful and eminent U.S. intelligence officer of modern times, died of complications of pneumonia late Wednesday night at Georgetown University Hospital here. He was 75.

The grandson of one secretary of state, the nephew of another and the brother of still another—the late John Foster Dulles—he was the nation's foremost intelligence operative during World War II, working from Geneva, Switzerland.

As director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 1953 to 1961, Dulles presided over some of the most brilliant successes and some of the worst embarrassments of American espionage.

Dulles did not found the CIA, but he professionalized it and transformed it into an important instrument of national power.

Under his direction, the CIA:

- Conceived, constructed and flew the U-2 spy plane and the spy-in-the-sky satellite, sending them deep into the Soviet Union to photograph Russia's growing nuclear arsenal.

- Tunneled under the Berlin Wall.

- Toppled a Communist from power in Guatemala with a bullet and a leftist in Iran in a coup.

- Began subsidies to American labor, education and cultural organizations operating overseas.

- Mounted the unsuccessful Bay of Pigs invasion in an attempt to topple Fidel Castro in Cuba.

- A plaque in the lobby of the CIA's vast concrete building at Langley, Va., bears a sculpted likeness of Dulles and the inscription:

"His monument is around us."

A powerfully built, vigorous man with great energy and endurance, he had been in declining health since suffering a mild stroke over a year ago. He entered Georgetown hospital on Dec. 24 suffering from flu which grew into pulmonary edema—water on the lungs. He died at 11:10 p.m. Wednesday from complications, according to a spokesman for the hospital.

'Civility, Dedication'

In a statement issued at the White House Thursday, President Nixon praised Dulles as "a man who brought civility, intelligence and great dedication to everything he did."

Mr. Nixon added that "in the nature of his task, his achievements were known to only a few. But—because of him—the world is a safer place today."

At Walter Reed Army Hospital, former President Dwight D. Eisenhower extolled Dulles as "a devoted public servant whose outstanding ability will be greatly missed by the nation." Dulles headed the CIA during virtually the entire Eisenhower Administration.

Director Richard Helms of CIA, who worked for Dulles for many years, praised his "unique" contribution to the establishment of the modern American intelligence service. "He was inspired by what to him were the lasting American traditions of freedom, justice and tolerance," Helms said. "He clearly saw his career in intelligence as service to these principles."

In the Soviet Union, the press agency Tass declared Thursday that "He was not only spy No. 1 but he also fiercely hated the Soviet Union and was the advocate of unscrupulous ideological and propaganda activity by the United States government."

Strong as it was, the Tass statement did not reach the level set by Elya Ehrenberg, a leading Soviet propagandist, in 1956.

"Even if the spy, Allen Dulles, should arrive in heaven through somebody's absent mindedness," Ehrenberg wrote in Pravda, "he would begin to blow up the clouds, mine the stars, and slaughter the angels."

Though Allen Dulles often spoke and wrote of the dangers to the United States of Soviet ambition and aggressiveness, he was far less of an ideological anti-Communist than his older brother, John Foster.

The younger Dulles worked against the Russians with great energy and enterprise, as he had against the German enemy during World War II. Nevertheless, said one of his former associates Thursday, "To Allen, communism was a system to be dealt with. He never had his brother's moralistic loathing."

Author at 8

With their three sisters, the Dulles brothers grew up in a series of Presbyterian parsonages occupied by their father, the Rev. Allen M. Dulles.

Young Allen was extremely precocious, writing a book at age 8 on the Boer War after hearing discussions of the subject by his grandfather, John W. Foster, who had been secretary of state under President William Harrison, and his uncle, Robert Lansing, who was to be secretary of state under President Woodrow Wilson.

After receiving B. A. and M. A. degrees from Princeton University, Dulles served as a junior diplomat and intelligence officer in Europe.

He resigned from the Foreign Service in 1926 to enter law practice in New York, where he had a distinguished career at Sullivan & Cromwell, also his brother's firm. During World War II, Gen. William J. Donovan, the chief of the Office of Strategic Services, recruited Dulles as his intelligence chief in Switzerland.

According to the citation for his Medal for Merit, signed by President Harry S. Truman in 1946, Dulles

"within a year effectively built up an intelligence network employing hundreds of informants and operatives reaching into Germany, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Spain, Portugal and North Africa, and completely covering France, Italy and Austria."

Dulles obtained and personally managed an agent within the Nazi Foreign Office who had access to every paper. Through him and other members of his extensive apparatus, Dulles obtained the first reports of the German experimental laboratory at Peenemunde for the testing of a rocket bomb and many other secrets.

Directing clandestine negotiations with some of Hitler's generals, Dulles arranged the surrender of 1 million German troops in northern Italy nearly a week before V-E Day.

He was recruited as deputy director of the CIA in 1950 by its director, Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, and then served eight years as CIA director on his own.

Because he had been an intelligence officer in the field, and a superbly successful one, he possessed a zest for the romance of cloak-and-dagger work which is rarely found at the top of intelligence bureaucracies.

Within the CIA, he was often referred to as "The Great White Case Officer" because he loved to dabble in the details of undercover work. In intelligence, a case officer is the man who manages the spies.

Mrs. Clover Todd Dulles, the former CIA director's wife, survives him, as do two daughters, Mrs. Joan Buresch of Zurich and Mrs. Clover Dulles Jobson of New York City, and a son, Allen M. Dulles, who was severely wounded in action in the Korean war. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Georgetown Presbyterian Church here.